

**THE RHODE ISLAND CONVENTION CENTER AUTHORITY
MEETING OF THE
DUNKIN' DONUTS CENTER COMMITTEE**

September 23, 2008

A meeting of the Dunkin' Donuts Center Committee of the Rhode Island Convention Center Authority (hereinafter referred to as "Authority", the "CCA" or the "Board") was held on September 23, 2008, pursuant to notice, at the Rhode Island Convention Center Boardroom, One Sabin Street, Providence, Rhode Island.

Board members present were, Committee Chairman, Bernie Buonanno, David A. Duffy, Jeff Hirsh, Paul MacDonald, Patrick Butler, Jason Fowler and Bill Daugherty.

Also in attendance, Jim McCarvill, Betty Sullivan and Donald Nadeau, Convention Center Authority; Larry Lepore, SMG/DDC; Tim Muldoon, Deb Tuton, Danielle Pestana, Beth Johnson and Nancy Beauchamp, SMG/RICC; John Valez and Tom Crocker, Sportservice; Robert Bromley, Senate Fiscal Office; Larry Bacher, Gilbane and Eileen Smith, Recording Secretary.

Mr. Buonanno called the meeting to order at 12:56 pm and announced that the next meeting would be held on October 28th at the rise of the Marketing Committee meeting, approximately 2:00 pm.

Mr. Buonanno noted that we lacked a quorum for the August meeting

and therefore sought a motion to approve the minutes of the July meeting. Upon a motion duly made by Mr. Fowler and seconded by Mr. Duffy it was unanimously

VOTED: to approve the minutes of the July meeting.

Mr. Buonanno asked Mr. Lepore to update the Committee on the Dunkin' Donuts Center operations. Mr. Lepore reported that August revenue was better than budget. He also reported that Net Income for the period was \$13,345 to budget but (\$72,263) to the prior year. The Year to Date net loss was better than budget due to the proper allocation of expenses to construction costs.

Mr. Lepore stated that it has been an interesting late August and early September. He said that a great deal of time was spent getting ready for the grand opening. Mr. Lepore thanked everyone for their time and effort in making the grand opening such a huge success. Mr. Lepore noted the significant amount of media coverage and support for the event. Mr. Lepore noted that there were minor problems with seating for American Idol that will be addressed. He said that the space between row KK and LL is too small. Mr. Lepore reported that the box office was busy during the open house. He reported that Earth, Wind & Fire as well as the Disney Princesses Ice Show were well received. Mr. Lepore stated that we must be very careful in the selection of acts booked for the facility. He noted that in today's economy people are being cautious about where they spend their

entertainment dollars. Mr. Lepore said that our family show market is still doing well but the public is holding on to cash for as long as they can. He stated that this market can't support high priced ticket performers. Mr. Lepore said that he has been working with Jimmy Birchfield on a possible boxing event. Mr. Duffy asked if the Providence Bruins and Providence College are all set. Mr. Lepore said that the Bruins are all set but that there is a great deal of work to do with Providence College. He noted that the seat issue is a problem for PC because some of those seats in row LL belong to season ticket holders who pay a license fee of \$750.00. Mr. Lepore reminded the Committee that 60 chairs had been lost so that the arena would be ADA compliant. Mr. Duffy asked if there were any problems with ADA for the Disney show. Mr. Lepore answered that we had more than enough ADA compliant seating for Disney. Mr. Buonanno asked if anyone had any indication of how PC is expected to do this season. Mr. Lepore said that he hasn't had any indication but we all wish them well. He said that the new coach is very enthusiastic and hopefully will communicate that to PC fans.

Mr. Hirsh asked if the Committee could discuss Sportservice. He stated that at the Earth, Wind & Fire concert he encountered several problems. Mr. Hirsh said that the restaurant was short staffed, people were complaining about service, there were no signs in the lobby directing people to the restaurant and there were some computer problems. Mr. Hirsh stated that although John was trying his best there were missed opportunities to make the evening a success. Mr.

McCarvill suggested that a letter be written to Delaware North stating our dissatisfaction with the restaurant. Mr. Lepore noted that the new General Manager had only been on site for a short time and was not given all of the information needed to properly staff the event. Mr. Lepore said that he was sure that Tom would take the necessary steps to make the restaurant a success. Mr. Duffy assured Mr. Hirsh that signage would be put in the lobby.

Mr. Bacher reported that construction is winding down. He noted that Gilbane would work with Track Seating on a solution to the seating issue. Mr. Bacher stated that the final amounts are being negotiated with contractors. Mr. Lepore said that aside from the seating problems some changes are being made to equipment. Mr. Daugherty asked if the seats could be discounted as obstructed views. Mr. Duffy asked if the row could be removed. Mr. McCarvill said that it would not be a simple thing to do and the PC had already sold those seats to season ticket holders. Mr. Lepore said that he cannot afford to lose 300 seats.

Discussions ensued regarding the War Memorial. Mr. McCarvill noted that the redesign is still being worked on. He said that there was a problem with the granite that was chosen and the memorial will most likely not be finished until Memorial Day, 2009. Mr. Butler said that he thought the site was City property. Mr. McCarvill said that the site belongs to Berkley Associates but the City has some control and has restricted its use.

Mr. Buonanno asked if there was any other business. Hearing none he sought a motion to adjourn. Upon a motion duly made by Mr. Butler and seconded by Mr. Fowler it was unanimously

VOTED: to adjourn at 1:40 p.m.